

THE CHAMBER

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GREATER FORT WAYNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

057-2005-22114-22

July 25, 2005

Mr. Neil R. Eisner
Assistant General Counsel for Regulation and Enforcement
Office of General Counsel
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Eisner,

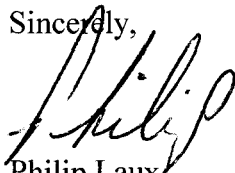
The Indiana General Assembly, during the 2005 legislative session, acted to end decades of debate and observe Daylight Savings Time. The U.S. Department of Transportation, in a letter to Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, has laid out a process by which each of Indiana's 92 counties will be asked for input on that county's preferred time zone. If no action is taken by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the current time zone line will remain in place, thus allowing those ten counties that currently observe Central Daylight Savings Time to continue observing Central DST while allowing the remaining 82 counties to observe Eastern Daylight Savings Time. The Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce believes that this would be the preferred outcome.

A month-long survey of our membership has shown overwhelming support for being placed in the Eastern Standard time zone, with over 81% of member businesses that responded saying their company preferred to observe Eastern DST rather than Central DST.

A study done by the California Energy Department found that DST provides a 3% - 4% reduction in energy costs. In Indiana that would be an annual savings of \$617 million dollars. The Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce supports observing Eastern DST not only for the economic benefits, but also for the improvement of our quality of life. More hours of sunlight, means more time spent with family outdoors as well as more time outdoors for healthy exercise activities.

This is an important issue for the business community in Fort Wayne and Allen County. We urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to leave the current time zone line in place and take no action that would change the observance of Eastern DST in the majority of Indiana.

Sincerely,


Philip Laux
President & CEO